

generating estimation result data representing a result of  
estimation of a cost of the component based on the retrieved costs;  
and

5 sending the estimation result data to the working bodies who  
have requested the estimation via said network.

22-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A component cost estimation system for estimating a  
cost of a component, said system comprising: a memory which stores  
cost information for associating a material of a component, a cost of  
10 the material, manufacturing steps of the component, and costs  
involved in the manufacturing steps with one another; and a  
computer, wherein:

the manufacturing steps include a pressing process;

the cost information includes information associating the  
15 manufacturing steps and costs of child components which are the  
components to be used in the manufacturing steps with each other;

the cost information further includes information associating a  
pressing device to be used in the pressing process and a cost involved  
in using the pressing device with each other; and

20 said computer:

receives data for designating a material of a component to  
be manufactured, and manufacturing steps to be applied to the  
material;

receives data for designating the pressing process, a  
25 material to which the pressing process is applied, and the pressing